

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00207 160804Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2322
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0207

DEPT OR APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEE PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S
PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, QA
SUBJECT: AMIR OF QATAR ON MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

REF: STATE 018942

SUMMARY: AMIR OF QATAR HAS REITERATED CENTRALITY OF
PALESTINIAN QUESTION TO MIDEAST SETTLEMENT AND HIS TOTAL
COMMITMENT TO THIS CAUSE. HE VOICED FULL SUPPORT FOR KEY
US, SAUDI AND EGYPTIAN ROLES IN PEACE PROCESS AND WARNED
THAT FAILURE COULD COMPLETELY DESTABILIZE AREA TO DETRIMENT
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DOHA 00207 160804Z

OF ALL OUR INTERESTS. AMIR FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH NEW
ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDES ON MIDEAST AND HAS GREAT EX-
PECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS OF US DIPLOMACY IN AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. WITHIN CONTEXT OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST
AND GULF/PENINSULA COM'S MEETING IN RIYADH, ON FEB 15 I
MET SEPARATELY WITH AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD

AL THANI, AND GOQ FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANISN FOR UPDATE ON THEIR VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. BOTH REITERATED VIEWS THEY HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELD THROUGHOUT MY TENURE IN DOHA.

2. AMIR EMPHASIZED CENTRALITY OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO KHALIFA, THIS WAS CORE ISSUE AND GOQ'S FULL COMMITMENT TO CAUSE WAS NOT MERELY DETACHED LISTENING TO DISTANT DRUM BUT TO DRUM BEATEN EVER MORE LOUDLY NEXT TO HIS EAR. KHALIFA STRESSED THAT IT WAS THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WHICH WAS COSTING HIM MILLIONS IN SUPPORT TO CONFRONTATION STATES, FUNDS WHICH HE WISHED TO DEVOTE TO HIS OWN COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT; IT WAS PALESTINIAN QUESTION WHICH COULD SPARK RENEWED HOSTILITIES THAT COULD CAUSE HIM TO EMBARGO QATARI OIL, WITH ALL IMPLICATIONS OF EMBARGO FOR COUNTRY'S SAFETY AND PROSPERITY AND RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES; IT WAS PALESTINIAN QUESTION WHICH IF NOT EXPEDITIOUSLY SETTLED THAT COULD UNLEASH RADICAL FORCES IN AREA THAT THREATENED HIS OWN REGIME AND OTHER MODERATE GOVERNMENTS IN AREA AND WOULD OPEN WAY TO PERMANENT SOVIET DOMINANCE.

3. AMIR DECLARED THAT IT REMAINED GOQ POSITION TO SUPPORT ALL THE WAY SADAT AND SAUDIS AND KEY US ROLE IN QUEST FOR SETTLEMENT. HE WARNED THAT POSITION OF ARAB MODERATES, INCLUDING PRESENT PLO LEADERSHIP, WHO NOW IN CONTROL AND DISPOSED TOWARD REASONABLE SETTLEMENT WAS NOT ALL THAT SECURE, AND THEIR FAILURE TO ACHIEVE AN HONORABLE PEACE COULD BRING THEM DOWN. HE SAW U.S. ROLE AS MOVING ISRAEL TO WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND AGREEING TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DOHA 00207 160804Z

ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE BEFORE ISRAELI HARDLINERS COULD COME TO POWER AND FRUSTRATE SETTLEMENT.

4. AMIR STATED THAT TIME WAS AGAINST RATIONAL FORCES IN AREA, SO WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO GET FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENT IN PLACE; THEN, HE SAID, IMPLEMENTATION AND WORKING OUT OF DIFFICULT DETAILS COULD BE AN UNHURRIED PROCESS, BUT IT MOST IMPORTANT TO SHOW DRAMATIC PROGRESS SOON LEST UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY AT HAND SLIP AWAY.

5. ACCORDING AMIR, ISRAELIS' CONCESSIONS ON TERRITORY AND PALESTINIAN STATE WILL PRODUCE WHAT THEY HAVE SAID FOR YEARS THEY ARE SEEKING--RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXISTENCE AND A GUARANTEE OF THEIR SECURITY. THESE ISRAELI REQUIREMENTS, HE SAID, ARE NOW ATTAINABLE AND FULLY ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY, GREAT POWERS, AND THE PRESENTLY DOMINANT ARAB LEADERSHIP, ALTHOUGH HE CAUTIONED THAT "NORMAL" RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS WOULD TAKE A GENERATION TO EVOLVE. HE REITERATED WARNING THAT FAILURE TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT WOULD DESTABILIZE WHOLE AREA AND POSSIBLY

PROVOKE GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION. HE NOTED THAT THE "MAD MAN" QADHAFI HAD TOLD KHALIFA'S SON DURING RECENT CONVERSATION THAT HE VIEWED NUCLEAR CONFLICT BETWEEN GREAT POWERS SPARKED BY MID-EAST WAR AS "WORTH IT" IF ISRAEL ELIMINATED IN PROCESS. ACCORDING KHALIFA, THERE ARE MANY "CRAZIES" LIKE QADHAFI LURKING IN EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES HOPING THAT FAILURE OF SETTLEMENT WILL BRING THEM TO THE FORE.

6. KHALIFA STATED THAT PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON URGENCY OF MIDEAST SETTLEMENT WERE WELL RECEIVED IN ARAB WORLD, AND VIBES OF NEW ADMINISTRATION EXTREMELY FAVORABLE. HE REMARKED THAT PRINCE FAHD DURING FEB 10 CONVERSATION HAD CONFIRMED SAUDI CONCURRENCE WITH HIS OWN VIEWS ON SINCERITY, PURPOSE AND VIGOR OF NEW ADMINISTRATION'S MIDEAST POLICY.

7. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, FOREIGN MINISTER SUHAYM ECHOED AMIR'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DOHA 00207 160804Z

THINKING ON MIDEAST SETTLEMENT, MOST SPECIFICALLY ON CENTRALITY OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION'S MIDEAST DIPLOMACY. SHUHAM ASKED WHETHER SECRETARY CARRYING A US-AUTHORED PEACE PLAN, I REPLIED THAT SECRETARY NOT RPT NOT BRINGING ANY US PROPOSAL PER SE; HIS BRIEF WAS PRIMARILY A LISTENING ONE AND DESIGNED TO HELP OVERCOME PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES TO CONVENING OF MID EAST PEACE CONFERENCE.
PAGANELLI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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